

Emerson Guidebook

2025-2026 School Year

Welcome to a brand new school year at Emerson Elementary!

As the principal, I am thrilled to extend a warm welcome to all our returning students and families, as well as those who are joining our school community for the first time. This year promises to be filled with exciting opportunities for growth, learning, and achievement.

I am looking forward to fostering a positive and inclusive school environment where every student feels valued and supported. Our dedicated team of educators is committed to providing high-quality education that not only nurtures academic excellence but also encourages creativity, critical thinking, and personal development.

Together, we will explore new ideas, embrace challenges, and celebrate successes - both big and small. As we embark on this journey together, I encourage each student to set ambitious goals, to be curious and to actively engage in all aspects of school life.



Let's make this school year one to remember! If you have any questions or need assistance throughout the year, please do not hesitate to reach out. Here's to a fantastic year ahead!

Warm regards,

Meredith Johnson
Emerson Elementary Principal
merjohnson@kearneycats.com

Emerson Daily Schedule



7:30 A.M.

Doors open

Please note that there is no supervision outside of the building before 7:30. Do not drop your child off or have them arrive before 7:30.

7:40 A.M.

Breakfast is served to students who wish to eat

They may enter through the front west doors or the play pad doors, which go directly into the cafeteria.

7:45 A.M.

All students enter the building

8:05 A.M. FIRST BELL RINGS

8:10 A.M. TARDY BELL RINGS

3:30 P.M. DISMISSAL

It is important to remember that we have a bus lane directly in front of the school. Please **DO NOT** park in the bus lane. Pull forward in front of the painted bus lane before stopping to let your child out. When dropping students off on the north side of the building, please be sure to not block the teachers' parking lot entrance. Please be alert and watchful while driving through our streets to keep our students safe.

To foster a successful start to our day, we encourage a kiss-and-go drop-off. Please do not come into the building with your child each morning. After the first day, we encourage you to say goodbye to your child at the door. We are excited to welcome them to school and will take excellent care of them!

Emerson: Need to Know

AFTER SCHOOL DISMISSAL

- Kindergarten- Kindergarten doors on the south side of the building.
- 1st – Main west doors
- 2nd & 3rd - North doors by the playground
- 4th - Northeast doors on the east side of the building
- 5th – Southeast doors on the east side of the building

Please plan to pick your child up at the designated areas. If a child has an older sibling they will leave with their class and walk around to meet up with the younger sibling. Please refrain from parking in the bus zone. Also, please plan to walk across the street to get your child. We will not send students across the street unless it is in the crosswalk with a safety patrol present. Thank you for your cooperation. (The only cross walk on Ave E is at the corner of 27th and E. We will only permit students to cross here so that there is one crossing point. This method promotes the safety of our students.)



COMMUNICATION

We will be sending out regular emails communicating as much as we can about what is going on at school. Every Sunday evening you will receive an email detailing the events of the upcoming week. If you are not getting the Sunday night emails, please contact the office.

Emerson: Need to Know



STUDENT ABSENCES

If your child is going to be absent, please send a written note to the office or call the school. In the event that your child is ill, please call the office and leave a message regarding the nature of the illness. If you have a doctor or dentist appointment please notify the school as well. It is important to have close communication with the school. When your child is absent for 5 days you will get a letter in the mail notifying you of the absences. It is required to send the letter at 5, 10, and 15 absences.

VISITORS

If you need to visit the school during the school day, please ring the bell in our foyer. We keep all doors locked during the day to keep our students safe. When a staff member opens the door for entry, please sign in at the front office. Our children are trained not to open the doors for adults, so we expect a staff member to let visitors in. We will not allow visitors to eat lunch at school until after Labor Day. We want to allow time for our students to learn our lunchroom routines and procedures. After that time, if you would like to eat at school, please let the office know by 8:00 am.

INVITATIONS & TREATS

It is district policy that students do not hand out invitations and treats for birthdays at school. The invitations and treats can cause disruptions to the school day and hard feelings.

Emerson: Need to Know

BANKING PROGRAM

We partner with Trius Federal Credit Union and their banking savings program! Please see the information provided in your back-to-school packet about the program.

PTO OPPORTUNITIES

Please consider signing up for the PTO. It is a wonderful opportunity to get involved in your child's education. If you can't make the meetings, we would still love and appreciate the help.



SUPPORT EMERSON

Turn in Apple Market receipts and download the Box Tops app to your phone to support Emerson!

PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCES

All parent teacher conferences will be scheduled on-line. We will provide you with instructions on how to sign up closer to conferences in September and February.

Meet the Principals



PRINCIPAL: MEREDITH JOHNSON

My name is Meredith Johnson and I am the principal at Emerson Elementary. Emerson has been my home for ten years since I started my journey in special education. I worked as a special education teacher for four years until I became the assistant principal at Emerson and Bryant Elementary for three years. My husband Lance and I have been married for 7 years. Together, we have two daughters: Thea, 4, and Ryleigh, 1. I am beyond excited to begin the new school year and continue to work with the students, staff, and families of our Emerson school community!

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL: SARAH HAWTHORNE

My name is Sarah Hawthorne, and this will be my third year as assistant principal at Emerson Elementary as well as at Bryant Elementary. I previously taught 6th grade math for nine years at Sunrise Middle School. Before coming to KPS, I taught 5th and 6th grade at elementary schools in the Omaha and Kansas City areas. I've been married to my husband, Ryan, for 10 years, and we have two sons: Jackson, who is 9 and in third grade, and Henry, who is 2. I am extremely excited for the new school year and cannot wait to continue working with the students, families, and staff at Emerson!